

# **H. L. Brockett Elementary**

## **Board Communications**



**2014**

Parent & Community Involvement at the School:

Every Friday - Popcorn Friday!

Thank you to our parent volunteers who help each week with *Popcorn Friday*. This month Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade will enjoy their treat.

April 4 - 1st Grade Field Trip

First Grade students visited Ft. Worth's Casa Manana. They enjoyed the production, 'How I became a Pirate,' which ties to their learning about books in the fiction genre.

April 11 - Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

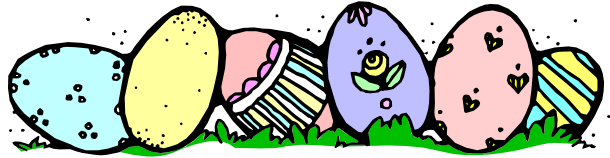
To honor and thank our volunteers, our teachers and staff are hosting a luncheon. Each volunteer will be receiving a special gift as a token of our appreciation.

April 17 - Kindergarten Musical

Kindergarteners will get to show off their musical skills in their spring music performance called "Bunches of Bunnies."

April 17 & 18 - Dog Tag Mania

We will be hosting our 3<sup>rd</sup> 9-Week Dog Tag awards. Parents and family members are invited to join in our celebration.



### Other Student Events:

STAAR Testing: Our students in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades have completed the first round of the 2014 STAAR test. 99% of students were in attendance on their testing days. The next STAAR tests will be on April 22 & 23 for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

### March 31 - Morris Brothers Pep-Rally

The Morris Brothers inspired our students to do their best on the upcoming STAAR tests. Everyone enjoyed the show.



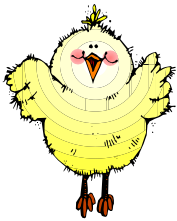
### In the Classroom:



### Kindergarten:

Where has this year gone? We are on now in April and the pressure is on to get our kindergarten babies where they need to be before moving on to first grade! End of year assessments in TPRI and DRA will begin this April. We have worked hard all year and anxious to see how much our kindergarteners have learned! We continue to write three or more sentences each day in our journals. We have also incorporated writing boxes for the first time in kinder and the students are doing wonderful with them. We take our practice spelling tests weekly in preparation for our end of year spelling and writing test. It's closer than we think. Great progress

is made every day! In science, we will focus on plants and the life cycle of insects. This is a fun unit and the students and teachers alike enjoy this topic! Math will consist of comparing temperature, weight, capacity, graphs, and area. Addition and subtraction will be done daily during calendar to assure that the students are retaining this very important skill. Last but not least, in social studies we will research weather, more specifically the instruments that we use to measure wind, temperature, and rain accumulation. We will begin our Easter baskets and eggs for our egg-stravaganza Easter egg hunt in a couple of weeks, and work on solving community problems! We are on cloud 9 here in kindergarten and the end is drawing near. It is such a bittersweet moment for all of us!



1<sup>st</sup> Grade:

In reading/language arts, students will be learning about other vowel sounds such as /ew/ and /aw/ and /au/. We will also be learning about vocabulary, retelling, and inferring meaning in books. Our field trip to Casa Manana went along with our study of fiction. We will continue guided reading groups, literacy workstations, and responding to literature. In math, we will continue word problems and begin our unit on measurement. In science, we will be learning how the external characteristics of an animal are related to where it lives, how it moves, and what it eats. We will also begin our unit of study on butterflies and their life cycle. In social studies, we will be learning about inventors, technology past and present, and citizenship.



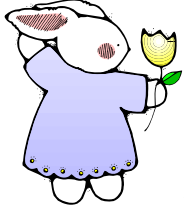
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:

Second grade is enjoying our last nine weeks. In math, we are working on multiplication and division. In reading, we are continuing our reading passages and using our "chaps" strategies. In social studies, we are studying states and researching a state with a poster presentation. We are continuing to work on our study of animals and adaptation. In writing, we are continuing writing expository and narratives.



3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:

As we anxiously move into spring and away from winter, third graders at Brockett are busy learning and reviewing! In math this month, we will be focusing on collecting data and transferring that data to a bar graph. Third graders are learning how to read all graphs. We will also be learning about probability and statistics. It is two weeks before the test so we into heavy review mode with the kids in ELAR and math. In reading and language arts, students will reexamine the literary genres of poetry, literary non-fiction, fictional texts, and traditional literature including myths and folktales. Students will make connections between various texts including comparing and contrasting two different versions of the same myth or folktale. Third graders are becoming very proficient in writing. In the last two months, they have written a persuasion and friendly letter. Presently they are working on a personal narrative about a memory they had in their life where they helped someone. In science, third graders are learning about the life cycle of animals and plants. Third graders in social studies are learning about important events in our history. We continue to encourage, teach, and inspire each day! ☺



4<sup>th</sup> Grade:

A Tall Tale will be told in the halls of fourth grade. Students will have fun exploring and creating tall tales. Animal adaptations will be analyzed in science class. We will learn about habitats and adaptations. We will continue learning about growth in Texas after the railroads were built. TEKS review and countdown is essential in math as we prepare for the upcoming STAAR test.

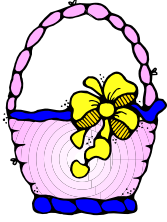


5<sup>th</sup> Grade:

We are working on "Understanding the Research Process." The students have started an outline and will be researching information using the internet and library. Then they will write a nonfiction paper.

In reading, we are working on summary, inferences, and making connections between texts with similar ideas. We are also continuing to work on context clues, analogies, Greek and Latin affixes, and idioms.

Fifth grade science is investigating Life science. We have been exploring ecosystems, creating PowerPoint presentations on biomes, and observing metamorphosis. We will tackle adaptations, inherited traits and behaviors. STAAR review and preparation is also on this month's menu. I would also like to congratulate our science fair winners who will move on to TWU for further competition on Saturday April 12.



### Music:

Our students at Brockett are busy, busy, busy in music class. The 2nd grade did a wonderful job with their performance of "Destination: North America", the sixth and final presentation of our 6 year study of the inhabited continents. Each of the last 6 years, students have had a 4-6 week unit on the music and culture of one of the continents. We ended up right at home with a rousing rendition of "Yankee Doodle Dandy" to close our concert. The Red and Blue S.W.A.T. teams ("Students with Amazing Talent"), our percussion ensembles, are working hard preparing for their spring concert in May. Kindergarten classes will present their concert, "Bunches of Bunnies" on April 17, at 6:30 in the Brockett cafeteria.